

MATWATCH

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VOL. 4, NO. 18

MAY 6-12

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

JARRETT INJURED IN FIERY COLLISION

JACKSON TN---USWA wrestler Jeff Jarrett was hospitalized after escaping a fiery two-car crash Sunday afternoon on Interstate 40 in this west Tennessee city.

WBBJ-TV weekend anchor Cary Martin aired footage of the collision Sunday night. A car driven by an unidentified man went out of control and spun around in the median of a south-bound lane of I-40, colliding into Jarrett's vehicle. Jarrett's car exploded but the Memphis resident escaped through an open window.

Jarrett was taken to Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, where he was treated and released.

RICK MARTEL DECIDES TO BOLT TITAN

ATLANTA---According to reports from the WWF Omni show Friday night, Rick Martel has joined Dino Bravo in departing Titan Sports.

Last week's MATWATCH reported Martel's missing several shows for unspecified reasons.

While insiders predict Martel may eventually return, an associate of the former AWA world champion's says Martel was "fed up" and dissatisfied with the direction his Model character was headed.

WCW TO EXPAND CONTRACT DEALS

ATLANTA---In the wake of the departure of Sid Vicious from WCW, the Turner Broadcasting-owned company plans to extend contracts to virtually all performing regulars.

On the April 27 GREAT AMERICAN FANS JAM II, WCW chief Jim Herd said, "Dusty Rhodes and Terry Allen are really capable when it comes to determining how we should treat young talent and what time frames to address in determining popularity quotients. We are address-

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First Quarter Ratings

HORSE RACE TIGHTENS; SATURDAY NIGHT PLUNGES

PRIME TIME WRESTLING and WCW MAIN EVENT have finished in a dead heat for top honors in the first quarter cable ratings race. But WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING has taken the biggest plunge from year-ago figures during the Ric Flair booking regime.

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PRIME TIME/MAIN EVENT

WCW/ALL-AMERICAN

POWER HOUR

PTW and WME both ended the January-March period with 2.8 average ratings. PRIME TIME increased its numbers by one-tenth of a point over 1990 figures. But MAIN EVENT, which established a post-1987 single-episode standard with a 4.4 rating, dropped from a 3.1 average last winter.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, which registered a strong 3.2 average in the first quarter of 1990, sank further than any of its peer shows. WCW, despite stronger focus to its shows by February with the reacquisition of Dusty Rhodes as senior producer, slipped to a 2.6, including one Sunday night two-hour edition.

ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING scored a slight gain from 1990, jumping from a 2.4 average to a 2.6 in its Sunday noon slot. ALL-AMERICAN was boosted by three 3-plus ratings, including two 3.3s in the two weeks leading to WRESTLEMANIA.

Comparing figures for the WCW POWER HOUR is misleading, since last winter's episodes aired in a regular Friday night slot and pushed to a 2.1 average, boosted by strong lead-in numbers from TBS family movies. The move to Saturday morning creates a natural decline in ratings because of fewer viewers in a.m. time periods. POWER HOUR averaged a 1.7 for the first 13 weeks of the current year and could only go over one million homes four times during the quarter.

The new format for PRIME TIME WRESTLING appears to have been a boost for the series. Having five airings during the quarter, the Vince McMahon/Bobby Heenan-hosted show averaged a 2.9 in its TNT-like production.

While not dropping to disastrous proportions, this was the poorest winter quarter ever for WCW on Saturday night. The erosion during the 13-week period appears to be a residual effect from the poor creative efforts of former booker Ole Anderson during the fall of 1990. "We're paying the price for what Ole did to us," said one analyst affiliated with the promotion this past Saturday. "A lot of people just got fed up with the shows and it may take us six to nine months to win their confidence back."

As for MAIN EVENT, the questions are: was it content, time period or the regular addition of Missy Hyatt in a sex-appeal role which kept the series in a tie with PTW? "You can say Missy was a curiosity factor for the males in the beginning but that only lasts so long," says one source inside the promotion (plus Hyatt was only on for miniscule wraparounds after mid-February. "But you have to remember, the numbers are down on this show, too. We did have more competitive matches on WCW MAIN EVENT but our shows, for the most

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**HERD: VENUE TURNOUTS
STILL BIG DILEMMA**

STEVE BEVERLY

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part, look an awful lot alike and little distinguishes them."

Two of those reasons, I clearly adopt. During the Anderson regime, the three TBS/WCW broadcasts were interchangeable. In Turner's first year of owning the group, POWER HOUR had a distinctive flavor: three matches, two of them longer than the quick-and-dirty jobber efforts; and two clearly-defined special segments in FUNK'S GRILL and WRESTLING NEWS NETWORK (though WNN wasn't strictly a skill job for upcoming WCW shows). Now, it's primarily reruns of past syndicated matches and Solie's WNN looks little different from his SUPERBRAWL CONTROL CENTERS on other shows.

Rhodes has made some of the matches more competitive and the feuds more focused on TV. But, again, with frequent turnover in creative control at WCW, it is going to take time for people to buy into it. I'd still like to see POWER HOUR go back to the three-match format. You don't have to have five or six matches to sell a show if the show has a unique flavor.

McMahon recognized the stagnation of the old Monsoon/Heenan PRIME TIME format, which resulted in weak ratings in the fall. The live audience format has perked it up after some horrible stutter-steps and outright vulgarity in the first three weeks. But why ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING is increasing its numbers is one of life's great mysteries, other than it airs at a weakly-competitive time period against other cable networks.

The test for Rhodes---and Jim Herd reiterated last week the top priority for WCW is to provide strong ratings for TBS---will be at the end of June. He'll have ended his first full quarter back at the helm and the spring numbers will be the first clear indication if his refocusing is what attracts America.

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HEADLINES**

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ing that as we grandfather all of those contracts we have in our files."

Sources have told MATWATCH WCW plans to offer all non-contract players it intends to keep as regulars deals for \$78,000-a-year, specifying precise numbers of days to be worked during that year.

MATWATCH has also been told WCW is expected to consider clauses requiring buyouts by performers if they attempt to leave the company before the end of their contract terms. Herd was not available for comment.

ATLANTA---Almost two-and-a-half years ago, Jim Herd was tapped to return to a business in which he had spent many past years in television production. And on THE GREAT AMERICAN FANS JAM II, Herd readily admitted one objective of World Championship Wrestling still stymies his group.

"Originally, we set two or three major goals and I think we've accomplished two of those," said Herd, in a MEET THE PRESS session on THE WRESTLING HOTLINE with MATWATCH publisher Steve Beverly, Dave Meltzer (THE WRESTLING OBSERVER) and Wade Keller (PRO WRESTLING TORCH WEEKLY). "We came about because of Mr. (Ted) Turner's desire to feed the TBS SuperStation four hours of wrestling a week. We've done that. Secondly, we wanted to prove we could do four live CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS and five pay-per-views per year that were successful and profitable and we've done that. If there's an area where we're still struggling, it's in the venues throughout the country, though since Dusty Rhodes has returned as our talent coordinator, we've made tremendous strides."

Herd says the need to satisfy one goal has been somewhat detrimental to the other. "You've gotta remember, we are the only group going against itself every Saturday or Sunday night. We're asking fans to watch the same people on TV that we ask them to come to the arena an hour later and pay to see. That's a tall order," said Herd. "Except on the weeks he tapes TV on Tuesdays, McMahon doesn't compete with himself."

Last year, Herd drew up a proposal to do WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING live at various arenas, in an effort to draw ticket-buyers to a weekly live show and provide more immediacy to the telecasts. The plan was expensive and has been placed on hold. Some critics believe a live Saturday night two-hour show would be counterproductive to the traditional flow of a standard arena show, plus any show in the Central time zone would have to begin at 5 p.m.

Herd was quizzed on the merits of bucking the 1980s trend of musclemen and creating a light heavyweight division, similar to Japan and Mexico. Meltzer made the case that it may work but "it will take a lot of patience and an education process for the fans and, even then, there's no guarantee it will work in this country, considering what we've been conditioned to the last ten years." Herd said, "I read you guys and we get mail from time to time asking us to try this and it's an interesting idea but we have to ask ourselves if it makes good business sense. I'm not sure if it does. Beverly said, "It won't work if you simply take a preliminary wrestler, call him a light heavyweight champion, and he loses to everybody else. He has to have credibility that he could win against all competitors." Added Keller: "Jushin Liger vs. Brian Pillman will draw ten times more money any day than Tugboat vs. Warlord."

Herd was honest about the company's standing. "I have no qualms about saying Titan Sports is Hertz and we're Avis down here," said Herd. But he added a number of Titan performers have expressed interest in WCW. "We've had calls from at least 15 people from Titan Sports in recent months. I'm not going to mention names because I wouldn't jeopardize those guy's livelihoods. We'll make decisions on those people, based on whether it makes good business sense. We're not gonna duplicate them (the WWF). We can't dance that good."

While Herd has not confirmed this, sources say he was given a three-year commitment when he assumed the role as WCW's chief. Others have characterized former NWA guru and WCW minority stockholder Jim Crockett's push to bring Rhodes back as a maneuver to regain a power base, should TBS decide to get out of the wrestling business. Herd was asked on FANS' JAM what both his and Turner Broadcasting's commitments are to sticking with WCW. "TBS, I can tell you, is committed forever. Ted Turner is a wrestling fan and he wanted this company to guarantee the live programming for the company," said Herd. "My commitment is the same. I'm in this thing for the long haul. I want it to be super-successful. If I'm not, it'll be the first thing I've failed at."

"I want it to be super successful. If it's not, it'll be the first thing I've failed at."
--- JIM HERD

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TV TEMPO

April 29-May 5

(USWA/ESPN) - El Grande Pistolero d. Chico Torres; Steven Dane d. Night Train Jackson; Billy Travis d. Steve Austin by DQ for over-the-top toss; (SOUTHERN TITLE) Jeff Jarrett d. Tom Prichard but Elliott Mays (Bob Van Gerske) reverses decision when Tom's chain found in Jarrett's trunks. Belt held up; (TEXAS TITLE) Eric Embry d. Bill Dundee w. ether rag but Mays holds up that belt, too. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Oro/Plata d. El Sambolo/El Halcon Negro 2 straight; Talisman/La Aguila Solitaria/El Pantera II d. Ponzo-na/El Enjambe/Marabunto; (MIDGETS) Octagoncito/La Mascarita Sagrada d. El Espectrito Jr./Jerrito Estrada/El Pequeno Cobarde by countout; Super Astro/El Rayo de Jalisco Jr./Mascara Sagrada d. El Dandy/Emilio Charles Jr./Sultan el Bargaola; Cien Caras/Mascara Ano Dos Mil/El Satanico d. Konnan el Barbaro/Lizmark/Octagon 2-3 when Konnan gets DQ in 3rd fall for unmasking Mascara. POWERSLAM.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: {From SNME} Mountie d. Tito Santana using cattle prod; (UPDATE) Andre the Giant refuses Sherri's bid to manage him, spans her, then has a beer; Barbarian d. Buck Zumhofe; (GUEST) Bret Hart shows drawings of Winston chasing Curt Hennig; (GUESTS) Nasty Boys/Jimmy Hart spraypaint Vince McMannequin red and do the same to Alfred Hayes' tuxedo & hair. Later, they run through the WWF building, spraypainting everything, including the receptionist; Virgil d. Tom Stone; Jake Roberts d. Earthquake by DQ when Jake is tied in ropes & 'Quake squashes and "kills" a rubber Damien; Ultimate Warrior d. Sgt. Slaughter by DQ when the Persian Gulf Three & Undertaker run-in. Hulk Hogan tries to save but Undertaker doesn't sell; Haku d. Jim Evans; Big Bossman d. Ricky Rice; Berserker d. Jim Powers; Kerry Von Erich d. Al Burke; (FINAL SEG) Nasties want Bret to paint them, so he shoves brush in Jimmy Hart's mouth & slaps paint on Nasties' faces. DRAW.

(SOUTH ATLANTIC) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Chris Chavis d. White Knight; Fantastics d. Mike REXX/Tommy Landell; Ranger Ross/Chavis d. Maneater/Pit Bulldog Spike; Curtis Thompson d. Texas Battleship. BOMB...repeat of 1/6.

[Last Week]: Maneater d. Butch Malone; Ross/Chavis d. Maneater/Spike by DQ; Ross/Chavis d. Battleship/REXX; Chavis d. Vince Torelli; Fantastics d. Sam Houston/Robert Fuller by DQ; Torelli d. American G.I.; Tommy Seabolt d. Nazi Stormtrooper. BOMB...all-repeat show.

(UWF) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Pre-empted on many SCA regionals...MAIN EVENT: (CAGE) Paul Orndorff double DQ vs. Steve Williams. NO RATING OFFERED.

[Last Week]: Cactus Jack d. Chris Michaels by countout; Power Twins d. S.D. Jones/Johnny B. Goode; Bam Bam Bigelow d. Samoan Afa by DQ when Samu runs in; Cheetah Kid d. Beast; Don Muraco d. Terry Gordy by DQ when Williams runs in. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: Bushwhackers d. Paul Scrivnee/Mike Johnson; Haku d. Jim Evans; Big Bossman d. Rice; Power & Glory d. Sonny Blaze/Anderson; Curt Hennig d. Tugboat; Jim Duggan d. Mark Bennett; (REPLAY) Earthquake squashes Damien. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[SUPERSTARS]: {WWF TAG TITLE} Rockers d. Nasty Boys by DQ when Brian Knobbs tries to use Jimmy Hart's helmet. Nasties keep belts; (UPDATE) Earthquake squashes Damien; Virgil d. Stone; Col. Mustafa d. W.T. Jones; Berserker d. Dan Robbins;

by countout; (FUNERAL PARLOR) Hogan shoves Bealer into standup coffin; (IRS) Shyster blasts bad deductions; Bret Hart d. Warren Bianchi; Von Erich d. Burke. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LPWA) - [LPWA TITLE] Lady X d. Bambi 2-3 falls; Malaya Hosaka/Cheryl Russa/Sweet Georgia Brown d. Candi Devine/LaGata/Rusty Thomas; Terri Power d. Diane Van Hoffman; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Cornette w. Medusa Miceli. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '91) - John Michaels/R.D. Swain d. Avengers; Nick Busich d. Mountain Man; (LPWA TITLE) Lady X d. Sindie Paradise to keep title; (CWF '87) Kerry Von Erich/Johnny & Davey Rich d. RPMs/Masa Chono; Brute Force d. Tom Sawyer/Chief Little Lyn; (MONTREAL) Ron Hutchinson/Harry Palborrow d. Sheik Ali/Lloyd Carland; PYTs d. John Myers/Tim Strong; (GA. TITLE) Joel Deaton d. Steve Lawler by DQ. DRAW.

(AWA: LOOKING BACK) - Velvet McIntyre/Victoria d. Lelani Kai/Despina Montanagas; Nick Bockwinkel d. Rick Martel; (6-MAN) Greg Gagne/Jim Brunzell/Jerry Blackwell d. Road Warriors/Paul Ellering. DRAW-PLUS.

(USWA/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]: El Grande Pistolero d. Terry Garvin; (DOG COLLAR MATCH) Jeff Jarrett vs. Tom Prichard no contest when ring fills and wild melee erupts; Texas Hangmen d. Bill Dundee/Danny Davis; Boogeyman d. Gary Young. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Davis d. Pistolero; (CLIP) Jerry Lawler's doctor shows Jerry's neck X-rays; Embry d. Night Train Jackson; Eddie Gilbert d. The Scorpion; Dundee/Steve Keirn d. Steve Austin/Prichard by DQ when ring fills up with heels. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(IWCCW) - Curly Moe d. Dusty Wolfe; [IWCCW TAG TITLE] P.D. & G.Q. Madison d. Billion \$ Babies to win belts; P.D. d. Zap by DQ; S.D. Jones d. Gary Zee; (PWI PRESS CONF.) Bill Apter w. Vic Steamboat; Steamboat d. Big Bad Stranger. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - Embry d. Chris Frazier; (PIPKIN BLDG./TX DEATH) Gilbert d. Embry by DQ when Eddie Marlin stops match as Eric and Ms. Texas wrap barbed wire around a bloody Gilbert. Embry decks Marlin w. kendo stick; Prichard d. Jack Diamond; (PIPKIN) Jarrett/Robert Fuller double countout vs. Austin/Prichard in bloody brawl; Jarrett/Prichard d. Scorpions; Davis/Dundee d. Texas Hangmen by DQ when Embry/Prichard try run-in but are headed off by Gilbert/Fuller/Jarrett; (REPLAY) Austin/Hangmen triple piledrive Keirn on floor. RESTHOLD.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Big Josh d. Jeff Sword; (TOKYO/IWGP JR. HWT. TITLE) Jushin Liger d. Akira Nogami to retain belt; (LARRY Z'S LEGENDS) Zbysko w. Ron Simmons; Simmons d. Tony Mella; (WNN) Gordon Solie on Lex Luger-Nikita Koloff feud; El Gigante/Brian Pillman d. Mark Kyle/Doug Vines; One Man Gang d. Keith Hart but after Kevin & Teddy stretch out Hart for 747s, El chases the heels & carries out Keith; Luger/Sting d. Magnum Force. RESTHOLD.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Freebirds d. Joey Maggs/Jamie McKinnon; Gang d. Tommy Angel but El chases heels after; (SUPERBRAWL C.C.) Gordon on Simmons-Reed, El-Vicious feuds; Young Pistols d. Rob Morgan/Mark Merro; Koloff d. Hart & swings him w. chain after; [DANGER ZONE] Paul plays w. Sting/Scott Steiner dolls;

SCALE: PINEALL! Must See PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

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El d. Chuck Coates but Barry Windham/Arn Anderson try to ambush him. El gets claw on both Barry & Arn until Vicious runs in. El decks Sid until Barry/Arn hold him for Sid to bash w. gurney but Pistols/Dustin Rhodes/Pillman save; (SEGMENT) Paul E./Missy jointly interview Flair but Missy leaves quickly when she gets CONFIDENTIAL letter; Big Van Vader/Simmons d. Snake Watson/Lt. James Earl Wright; (ANGLE) Paul E. admits writing the CONFIDENTIAL letter to shoo away Missy. Hyatt pounces on Paul, slaps & kicks him, pulls his ponytail and has to be hauled off by Dave Dellinger. DRAW.

[MAIN EVENT]: (SUPERBRAWL C.C.) Simmons-Reed, Rhodes-York Foundation feuds; (TOKYO/IMG TAG TITLE) Steiners d. Hiroshi Hase/Kensuke Sasaki to win belts; (VIDEO) Sting & Luger-Steiners; (From WWF) El shows up as medic after Sid power-bombs jobber; El d. Joe Cruz; (From WCW) Paul E.-Missy exchange from yesterday. Ross says both are "in a hearing with Jim Herd;" (WCW TV TITLE) Anderson draw vs. Big Josh. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WCW/SYN) - [WCW PRO]: El d. Cruz; Big Van Vader d. Rick Hardrock; (TOKYO) Flair-Fujinami windup & post-match news conf.; Freebirds d. Tim Parker/Bob Holly; Terrence Taylor d. Greg Sawyer; Simmons d. Mike Samples; Koloff d. Tommy Angel; (SUPERBRAWL C.C.) El-Vicious feud; (LARRY Z's LEGENDS) Zbyszko w. Flair; (WCW TV TITLE) Pillman d. Anderson by DQ when Windham runs in. Bobby Eaton saves, brawl erupts. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [WORLD WIDE]: Pistols d. Cruz/Rip Rogers; (HANDICAP) El d. Magnum Force; Rhodes d. Lou Fabiano; Vicious d. Scott Sandlin & has stareoff with El after; Vader d. Morgan; Pillman/Eaton d. Anderson/Windham; Ricky Morton d. Taylor after Dustin tells ref Taylor had scored illegal pin; (VIDEO) Steiners-Luger/Sting montage. DRAW-PLUS.

(PORTLAND) - Jimmy Jack Funk d. Al Madril; Bart Sawyer draw vs. Mike Winner; Equalizer d. Doug Masters by DQ when Doug hits Eq w. garbage can but Eq returns favor; (PACIFIC NW TAG SEMIFINALS) 1. Bruise Brothers d. Rip & Larry Oliver; 2. Southern Rockers d. Grappler/Dirty White Boy; (ANGLE) Masters says Funk's wife has been trying to get date with him. Funk comes out, Masters flees. RESTHOLD.



his tongue and he looks like a zipper." 4. Scott Hudson/Craig Johnson, PW'91: (SH) "Look at those tights, Craig. They don't have a lot of grabbability." (CJ) "Who'd want to grab 'em?" 5. Cornette, WWEU, on Kent: "Last time I saw a leg like his, I was pulling it out of a box of Col. Sanders." 6. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on Bret Hart-Barbarian: "The Hitman will be back selling hockey pucks in Canada." 7. Heenan, PTW: "Mr. Perfect is like an exercise cycle in your house. You get a sweat. You get a workout. But you don't get anywhere." 8. Cornette, LPWA: "Norman won a letter in college and had to get somebody read it to him." 9. Cornette, LPWA, to heckling fan: "Save your breath, yo-yo, you're gonna need it for your

inflatable date." 10. Steven DeTruth, WWEU: "Greggie Gagne, you retired from wrestling the day you laced up your boots. You retired the day someone bigger than you...that's everybody...kicked your head in."

11. Paul E., WCW, on ref count: "Ah-one, ah-two! Who is this guy...Lawrence Welk?" 12. Joe Pedicino, PW'91, on Timmy D./PYTs: "Timmy D.'s out here yelling, 'No mercy. No mercy. I wish he'd have some mercy on us and get them some plain outfits.'" 13. Paul E., PH: "You can take any sleaze off the street, put her in a nice outfit, give her a sixth-grade education and she can do the kind of stuff Missy Hyatt can do." 14. Johnson, PW'91, on PYTs' outfits: "It looks like somebody got sick." 15. Johnson, PW'91: "This lady, Beverly Stephens, called and said she actually likes the PYTs. Is she bothering you guys, too?" 16. Hudson/Johnson, PW'91: (SH) "I think Timmy D. has some Slim Fast in that bag." (CJ) "With these guys (PYTs), you need two weeks to take off the weight." 17. Johnson/Hudson, PW'91: (CJ) "How do you tell the difference between Avenger I and Avenger II?" (SH) "I think Avenger I needs a bath worse than Avenger II. He's not very hygiene-oriented." 18. Jim Ross, PH: "(Kevin) Sullivan looks like a blonde Danny DeVito without a lot of sleep." 19. Eric Embry, WMC: "We keep our Tennessee tourists in cattle pens in Texas." 20. Churnin' Charlie, WRESTLING PARTY: "Diamond Dallas Page reminds me of a bouncer at The Doll House (strip joint)." 21. Randy Savage/Roddy Piper, WWF-SU: (RS) "...not in my book, it doesn't." (RP) "Your book's only got one page." 22. Ross, WME: "I don't have the patience of Mister Rogers."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Paul E., WCW, on Missy: "If I were Jason Hervey, I'd be real careful because Fred Savage makes a lot more money and when he turns 18, she's gonna sink her hooks into him!" 2. DeTruth, WWEU: "Women can't wrestle!" 3. Ross, WME: "It's an oxymoron to say you can have a nice conversation with Jim Herd."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. DeTruth, WWEU: "How come Greg Gagne's pants won't stay up? Because his daddy keeps putting belts on them." 2. Heenan, PTW, on Bret's painting: "Do you use oils? If you did, you could just dip the brush in your hair."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. EXCELLENCE OF EXECUTION (Bret Hart on himself). 2. THE FEMALE ROAD WARRIORS (Cornette on Bad, Black & Beautiful). 3. GOOPY (Jim Ross on Kevin Sullivan). 4. MR. SPAM (Heenan on Kerry Von Erich). 5. GOLDDIGGING WENCH (Paul E. on Missy).

PERSONAL NOTE, IF YOU PLEASE, ADAPTATION - Gordon Solie, PH: "An editorial comment, if I may...."

BEST PICTURES - 1. WCW, Missy pouncing on Paul E. 2. LPWA, Norman wearing Bugs Bunny cap. 3. PW'91, PYTs' outfits. 4. WWF-SU, Rockers escaping hit with Jimmy Hart's helmet. 5. WCW, Sullivan-Long conversation. 6. WCW, Paul E. playing with wrestling dolls. 7. WCW, El Gigante double clawing Barry/Arn. 8. PTW, Bret Hart slapping paintbrush in Jimmy Hart's mouth.

HYPE AWARD - Ric Flair, WCW, on SUPERBRAWL: "...the biggest spectacular in the history of wrestling."

SEXIST REMARK - Paul E., WCW, on Fantasia: "That broad has more class than Missy Hyatt."

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Nick Busich, PW'91: "Steve The Lawler Brawler." 2. Diamond Dallas Page, WCW PRO: "El GIGANTO." (Continued on Page 6)

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KEIRN CAN'T LICK 'EM:

Steve Keirn is on his way to Titan, so I suppose we can finally call SUNCOAST PRO's Full Force the official Florida champion now.

NO GOBBLEDY-GOOKER: At last week's WORLD WIDE taping for May 25, Barry Windham squashed a jobber when someone in a chicken outfit came to ringside. He came in the ring, laid his head on Barry's shoulder, then slugged Barry and caught him with a cross body block from the top and counted his own pin. That piece of poultry was Foghorn Pillman.

P.N. IN THE P.M.: We're told P.N. News (Paul Neu), the 400-pound rapper, got one of the biggest crowd responses since 1989's Funk-Flair series. He wears a long-legged singlet. Wednesday night, he did a DANGER ZONE in Greenville SC with Paul E. we're told is perhaps the best DZ ever.

ROCK & ROLLED: On the WWF show of the 25th, Arn Anderson and Terry Taylor go against Dustin Rhodes and Ricky Morton when Windham comes to Morton's corner and Ricky goes off with him. Looks like the first turn of the new Dusty regime.

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH?: Between WCW tapings for the 11th and 18th, Scott Hall had a tryout as The Diamond Stud. I'm told he's improved after his stint in Europe. Jim Herd told us Thursday from Montreal Hall will start in two weeks.

WWF AT THE OMNI: Titan drew its biggest crowd in months at The Omni Friday night. Out of 6,100 in the house, about 5,500 were paid for the Hogan-Slaughter main event.

TURNER'S BACKYARD: The WWF intends to try to book eight to 10 dates a year at The Omni. Actually, Titan is going to ask for exclusivity (which it won't get) just to needle Turner.

BACK TO KANSAS?: Lots of internal discontent over the Oz character (Kevin Nash) for WCW. The veterans resent having a Turner-owned movie character groomed for the ring (I'm told we'll see Munchkins accompanying).

NOT MICHAEL: Dusty reportedly wants Brad Armstrong to go under a mask as Fantasia, the third Freebird, and Brad is balking. Fantasia would be in a program against the Young Pistols, pitting Brad vs. his own brother, Steve.

NETWORKING: WCW gets a slot on KTVT (Channel 11) in Dallas this September. That will give Turner exposure on four of the nation's seven superstations (WSBK/Boston, KTLA/L.A. and WWOR/New York will be the only ones not with a WCW show. If ratings are strong, that could be a finishing blow for USWA.

A HELPING HAND: USWA card in Germantown TN, a Memphis suburb, Thursday night is a fundraiser for the Bobby Todd Fund. Todd is a young man needing a bone marrow transplant.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Variations on the past month...another Texas Brawl in a cage with Embry/Prichard/Austin/Hangmen vs. Fuller/Jarrett/Gilbert/Dundee/Davis. In the finale, Steve Keirn faced Embry in a lights out match.

AND IN OTHER ATTRACTIONS: Eddie took on Embry in a barbed wire glove match (both guys wear gloves wrapped in barbed

wire), Keirn vs. Austin, Fuller/Jarrett vs. Hangman Psycho/Prichard.

AND FINALLY: Bill Dundee vs. Hangman Killer. If Bill won, he had five minutes with J.C. Ice. If Killer won, J.C. had five minutes with Bill with Dundee's hands tied behind his back. Opener: Little Tokyo vs. Karate Kid.

STILL A PROBLEM: I was told over the weekend by a key WCW insider no-shows, even if unintentional, continue to be a problem. Fans haven't been told quickly enough about the Barry Windham and Sid Vicious situations and a good many irritations have been registered with events coordinators about the subs---particularly Kevin Nash as Mr. X for Vicious.

A BIG EGG: That's what we apparently laid April 27 on the GREAT AMERICAN FANS JAM II. The subtitled JIM HERD MEETS THE PRESS only netted 2,300 phone calls and even though it was the highest of any WRESTLING HOTLINE program of the week, it was weak for a special. Herd said, laughing: "You didn't have enough of your subscribers call. We won't be asked back."

A FEW ANNUALS LEFT: Eight, to be exact. You can still order the 1990 MATWATCH ANNUAL as long as these copies remain for \$12 from the usual MATWATCH address.

BIG BUCKS: A certain wrestling TV personality has recently received gifts totaling a reported \$32,000 and didn't even have to go on THE PRICE IS RIGHT to win them.

ANOTHER NO-SHOW: Thomas Reeder ran an IWA show in Pueblo CO April 28 which we're told was decent but advertised Paul Orndorff, when Paul had long been booked in New York. Topliners: Honky Tonk Man d. Jim Brunzell and Rick Rude d. B. Brian Blair by DQ when faces saved him from a figure-4.

MAKING PROGRESS: Our 1988 MATWATCHER OF THE YEAR Dan Gibson is being moved to an Albany GA hospital for therapy from his stroke. I would still appreciate you dropping him a get-well card at 2301 DOROTHY ST., WAYCROSS GA 31501.

UWA PREMIERES: Universal Wrestling Alliance will be seen Saturdays at 10 a.m. on Cable CTN in New Jersey beginning June 1. Rich Mancuso, Johnny Valiant and Tom Casola will announce.

SOUTH ATLANTIC SINKS: The South Atlantic group appears on the ropes. SAW tapes May 18 in Johnsonville SC but that's the last taping for a while. The official line is Frank Dusek is taking SAW off TV for the summer but plans to return in fall.

MORE SAW: Dusek reportedly wants to run more houses this summer and expand in the Carolinas. But that's hard to do without TV and it'll be hard to get back on TV once he goes off, as hard as time periods are to find.

COMINGS AND GOINGS: Dusek's people are saying Robert Fuller was fired before he returned to Memphis. Paul Jones has re-retired.

OTHER SITES: A decision hasn't been made on a HALLOWEEN HAVOC but we're told Indianapolis is being considered for the November CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XVII.

TIME OFF: We're told the Steiners are at 160 days of a 250-day commitment in their current annual contract, so they are asking for one week a month off for the rest of their contract year.



WME RALLIES TO TIE ALL-AMERICAN

In a week where virtually all cable wrestling shows took a nosedive with the audiences, WCW MAIN EVENT posted a 4% gain over the previous week, to tie WWP ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING for the top spot in Nielsen cable ratings for the week ending April 30.

WME scored a 2.7 rating and 5.6 per cent share of audience to tie ALL-AM, which registered an 8.5 per cent share in the lesser-viewed Sunday noon time slot.

MAIN EVENT, in a two-hour special April 28 headlined by a six-man tag match with El Gigante/Sting/Brian Pillman vs. Arn Anderson/Barry Windham/Ric Flair was seen in more homes to win that category for the week. ALL-AMERICAN fell 13% from its strong 3.1 of the previous week.

PRIME TIME WRESTLING, which repeated most of the SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT matches, took the biggest dip with a 22% decline.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING dropped to fourth despite a Pillman-Windham match late in the show. Its 2.3 rating was off 15% from its April 20 showing.

WCW POWER HOUR, which had rallied for either 2 ratings or million-homes plus outings six out of eight weeks, slid to a 1.5, its lowest showing in 13 weeks.

CABLE

Week Ending April 30	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WCW MAIN EVENT (TBS 4/28)	2.7	5.6	1.54 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 4/28)	2.7	8.5	1.50 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 4/30)	2.5	4.0	1.39 million
WCW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 4/27)	2.3	5.6	1.32 million
WCW POWER HOUR (TBS 4/27)	1.5	6.5	858,000

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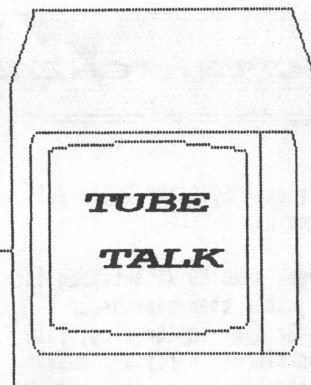
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LPWA and GEORGIA ALL-STAR have been cleared on WFLI in Chattanooga....WCW may have to buy its way back on TV in the Memphis market. WCW ratings are poor in Omaha....Missy Hyatt gets another night live on THE WRESTLING HOTLINE this Sunday from 7-8:30 (EDT).... Well-known St. Louis timekeeper Harry White took part in a forum on the end of the Kiel Auditorium on KMOX-AM....Where did WCW get this guy who's doing the town voiceovers? I'm

ready to turn the dial the second I hear that ROLLLLLLLLLLING Thunder hit the air. Bring back Freddie Miller....Late word is WORLD WIDE is off altogether in Omaha....The video setting the scene for the Steiners vs. Sting/Luger was nicely mixed with subtle visual counterpoint....STARRCADE will be reportedly awarded to Norfolk VA Dec. 29. Tulsa will get the September CLASH XVI and Indianapolis is being considered for the November CLASH....ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY's May 3 issue reviews the WRESTLEMANIA VII videotape. Among key quotes: "WRESTLEMANIA 7 aspires to the championship of trash entertainment" and "Gorilla Monsoon and Hacksaw Jim Duggan are a leather-lunged parody of microphone mavens." Paul Bearer is referred to as a "Gomez Addams lookalike with an urn." EW gives the tape a "B-" rating....THE HISTORY OF WRESTLEMANIA Hot Ticket show is not available in my area. I'd be happy to supply the cost of a tape for anyone who gets it and could duplicate it. ...Stately Wayne Manor on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW Saturday night on WCBM....The last two weeks, the USWA's MAIN EVENT show has been nothing but repeats of old WILD WEST matches. I guess the Embry bookings have left too little product to spread into those shows....Final note: Scotty the Body okay after being shaken up in a Saturday night auto accident in Atlanta.

TV TEMPO

(Continued from Page 4)

PASSWORD OF THE WEEK - Hudson, PW'91: "GRABBABILITY."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Solie, PH: "...justice will have to prevail."

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